



## Giving and Receiving Hospitality

### About this Faith Practice

Hospitality begins when we perceive ourselves and others as strangers in a community of welcome. Seeing Christ's presence in the other enables us to welcome Christ into the midst of the community, with all of the costs and joys of discipleship. Gentle, attentive, patient, and consistent care is required to create a community where members are intentional about seeking and welcoming all, especially those whose abilities, experiences, and cultural traditions are different from the mainstream of the current community. A community of hospitality is aware, sensitive, and open to divergent cultural practices. It reaches far beyond the limits of the familiar in a highly mobile world, transforming both the newcomer and the established community.

### Let's Begin...

Now that you've downloaded the files for your faith practice and age group or setting, you can get started planning one or multiple sessions:

- 1 **Open the .pdf file for your age group or setting. Choose an Exploration, the approach you think will help your group to best experience the faith practice. Choose any one of the following Explorations to use for one session:**



**Discovery**



**Scripture**



**Discipleship**



**Christian Tradition**



**Context and Mission**



**Future and Vision**

**Note:** If you're planning multiple sessions, you can follow the order suggested above or feel free to use any order that fits the needs of your group. Some groups may choose to start with Scripture and then see where that leads them. Others may be more ready to act in their community and might want to start with Context and Mission.

- 2 **Locate the Exploration you've chosen**

### 3 Look through all 9 activities and select the ones you would like to do with your group.

- If you're planning a 30–45 minute session, choose 3 activities.
- It is best to select at least one activity from Exploring and Engaging, at least one from Discerning and Deciding, and at least one from Sending and Serving.
- For 45 minutes to 1 hour, choose 4 or 5 activities.
- For a 1½ to 2-hour session, you can use all 9 activities.

**Tip:** Look for this symbol  to find activities designed for Easy Preparation (able to be done with minimal preparation using supplies normally found at the church).

### 4 Make copies of any handouts () related to your activities. Order posters () if using art (see "Ordering Posters," below).

## Use of Art, Music, and Scripture in Faith Practices

Faith Practices activities include many opportunities to grow in faith through the use of scripture, music, and art.

### Ordering Posters

If you choose activities that use an art image, you or your church will need to purchase posters of the art by clicking on the link provided in the activity. If you wish to use art, you will need to plan ahead, since it takes 1 to 2 weeks for the posters to arrive after you place your order.

### Art

Six posters are used with the faith practice Giving and Receiving Hospitality and may be ordered by clicking on the links provided.

#### **From Imaging the Word Poster Sets:**

"The Peaceable Kingdom" by John August Swanson (<http://www.tinyurl.com/UCCResources>)

"The Public Fountain" by Manuel Alvarez Bravo (<http://www.tinyurl.com/UCCResources>)

"Embrace of Peace" by George Tooker (<http://www.tinyurl.com/UCCResources>)

#### **From AllPosters.com:**

"Barber Shop" by Jacob Lawrence (<http://www.tinyurl.com/AllPosters1>)

"The Luncheon of the Boating Party" by Pierre-Auguste Renoir (<http://www.tinyurl.com/AllPosters2>)

"Vendedora De Pinas" by Diego Rivera (<http://www.tinyurl.com/AllPosters3>)

### Music

Three music selections are used with Giving and Receiving Hospitality. We have selected music which is easily found in many hymnals. A web link is provided to give more information about each music selection.

Come All You People, Tune: Uyai Mose (<http://www.tinyurl.com/FPSong1>)

Wade in the Water, Tune: African-American Traditional (<http://www.tinyurl.com/FPSong2>)

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant, Tune: Servant Song (<http://www.tinyurl.com/FPSong3>)

### Scripture

Twelve Bible passages are used with Giving and Receiving Hospitality, two with each Exploration.

Discovery	Luke 19: 1–10	Hebrews 13: 1–8, 15–16
Scripture	Genesis 18: 1–15 (21:1–17)	Isaiah 25: 1–9
Discipleship	John 13: 1-17, 31b–35	Acts 2:42–47
Christian Tradition	Mark 14: 22–25	1 Peter 4:1–11
Context and Mission	Romans 12: 9–18	John 6: 1–21
Future and Vision	Luke 14: 15–24	Mark 10: 13–16

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*Worship, Music, Arts, and Story*  
*Adults*  
*Seekers and New Church Participants*  
*Young Adults*  
*Older Youth*  
*Youth*  
*Older Children*  
*Young Children*  
*Multiage and Intergenerational*  
*Living Practices in Daily Life*  
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# Giving and Receiving Hospitality



## Exploration: Discovery

### About this Setting

The beginnings of hospitality are often displayed through introducing oneself -- sharing one's name and learning the name of the other. Positive first impressions are made by calling another by name. Just as our family names may provide an introduction to who we are and where our families may have originated, the name of the United Church of Christ represents this denomination's rich history and an introduction to its members' beliefs. In the same way, the name of each local church carries its own history and traditions. In this setting, we introduce the concept of hospitality by seeking to understand and appreciate the stories that accompany these names, with the hope that a more hospitable space may then be created for all.

### About this Exploration

Hospitality is the intentional and respectful care of both the potential and the gathered community with its diverse and ever-changing hopes, dreams, fears and needs. Extending God's extravagant welcome requires expansion and adjustment of the physical space and the interior space of individuals. To be truly hospitable, individuals must be personally centered in God's grace for themselves and others. While respecting boundaries, hospitality requires suspending territories, prejudices and judgment to establish welcome space for all. Hospitality is a radical broadening of individual worldview to welcome people outside of current experience. Receiving hospitality can be more challenging than offering it. Hospitality must be experienced, modeled and practiced as a continuing expression of faith.

### BIBLE FOCUS PASSAGES:

**Luke 19:1-10**  
**Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16**

## Leader Preparation

The activities presented here are intended for intergenerational groups of youth, adults, and elementary age children. It is also possible to use these activities specifically for a group of adults or youth or children. In the cases where an activity leans more toward older participants, a suggestion is offered for use with children. As the leader of the session, be sure to adapt the activities to the specific learning abilities in your group. For further information about the United Church of Christ and its formation see Attachment: "Additional Resources for the Discovery Exploration"

Spend some quiet time reflecting on your given name, your family name, and the name of your church. Who are you as a child of God in relation to these names?

*O Lord, you have searched me and known me.*

*You know when I sit down and when I rise up;*

*you discern my thoughts from far away.*

*You search out my path and my lying down,*

*and are acquainted with all my ways.*

*For it was you who formed my inward parts;*

*you knit me together in my mother's womb.*

*I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.*

*Wonderful are your works;*

## Exploring & Engaging Activities

### 1 What's in the Name "UCC"? (Easy Preparation)

Leader preparation: Visit <http://www.ucc.org/vitality/what-matters> to view the six emphases of the United Church of Christ in preparation for leading the discussion.

**Supplies:** None

Invite each person to give his or her nickname and how it came to be. Then tell the group that the United Church of Christ has a nickname as well: "UCC." Ask questions, such as the following, to help them discover the meaning behind what the letters "UCC" represent: What is the meaning of the word "church"? (In the name of the UCC, "Church" refers to the people.) What does "united" mean? (If your group consists of children or youth, ask them to arrange themselves as a group to show you what "divided," and then "united," mean.) What does "of Christ" mean in relation to "United" and "Church"? Who is Christ? What does the word "of" do to the relationship between "Christ" and "Church"? How is your church "united," "a church," and "of Christ"? What does the meaning of "UCC" imply about how people in this denomination welcome others?

### 2 Stories from the UCC's Four Beginnings

Leader preparation: Before this session, recruit four people to read dramatically the stories from the handout. There are four stories provided specifically for elementary age children. Four youth or adults will need either session time or outside time to create their stories from the resource provided on the handout. If possible, arrange for an intergenerational event at your church to present the four, or eight, stories.

**Supplies:**

- handout: "Reader's Theater: Stories from the UCC's Four Beginnings, Attachment: Activity 2"
- four dynamic readers, either four children or four youth/adults, or a combination of all of these ages for all eight stories

Invite the prepared and rehearsed readers to present a readers theater presentation of the four stories from the traditions that united in 1957 to become the United Church of Christ. Follow the instructions on the handout, "Readers Theater: Stories from the UCC's Four Beginnings."

### 3 Interview Your Church Historian

Leader preparation: Arrange for your group to meet with your church's historian or other long-time member who is familiar with your church's history.

**Supplies:**

- tape recorder
- camera
- list of interview questions, Attachment: Activity 3

Spend a little time helping your group prepare for the interview of your church's historian by compiling questions and determining who will take on the tasks such as asking which questions, recording, and taking photos. Add to, delete,

*that I know very well.*

*Search me, O God, and know my heart;*

*test me and know my thoughts.*

*See if there be any wicked way in me,*

*and lead me in the way everlasting.*

*Amen.*

—(Psalm 139:1-3, 13-14, 23-24)

### Session Development

For each session leaders may choose from 9 activities that help learners engage the practice of faith. It is best to select at least one activity from Exploring and Engaging, at least one from Discerning and Deciding, and at least one from Sending and Serving. The first activity in each category is designed for “easy preparation” (able to be done with minimal preparation using supplies normally found at the church). Using all 9 activities could take 90-120 minutes.

\* To plan a session of 30-45 minutes, choose 3 activities using one activity from each category.

\* To plan a session of 45-60 minutes, choose 4 or 5 using at least one activity from each category.

and re-write the questions on the handout, “Interview Questions for the Church Historian” in preparation for your interview. Publish the results in your church’s newsletter and on your website.

### Discerning & Deciding Activities



#### 4 Welcoming Zacchaeus (Easy Preparation)

Leader Preparation: Read and meditate on Luke 19:1-10, and if possible read a Bible commentary on this scripture, in preparation for leading the discussion.

##### Supplies:

- Bibles

Invite one of the participants to read aloud Luke 19:1–10. If you have some participants who are comfortable acting out the story as it is being read, invite them to do so. In this story, Jesus called Zacchaeus by name, which most likely made it even easier for Zacchaeus to respond hospitably toward Jesus. What are the other hospitable acts described in this scripture? Re-read verse 10. What was “the lost” that Jesus sought and saved? How may we, at our church, welcome “the lost”?

#### 5 What’s the Meaning Behind Your Church’s Name?

Leader Preparation: Read an overview of your church’s history, or ask a member of your congregation who knows the history.

##### Supplies:

- newsprint
- markers
- dictionary
- a copy of your church’s history or invite someone who knows the origin of your church’s name

Invite each learner, one at a time, to share what they know about the origin of your church’s name. If they don’t know, encourage them to make an intelligent guess. Be sure to include the meaning and reason behind each word in the church’s name. Record key facts on newsprint. Ask: What does our name say about what we believe? What does our name tell others about the kind of people who are welcome here? If we were charged with updating this church’s name, what name would describe who we are now and who we would welcome?

#### 6 Church Name Photo

Leader Preparation: Make arrangements for either printing a photo from a computer or developing the photo from film.

##### Supplies:

- camera
- computer and printer
- photo paper
- poster board
- markers or paints

As a group, take a trip to your church's outdoor sign for a group photograph. Either print the photo (as large as possible) immediately on photo paper, or have the photo developed for the next session. Using the poster board as a frame for the photo, invite each person to decorate a piece of the "frame" with symbols that represent your church and its members. Have the group create a title for the photo that cleverly incorporates your church's name. Display the photo in a prominent place in your church. Youth or adults could write an article for your local newspaper welcoming the community to your church, to be submitted with the photo.

### Sending & Serving Activities

#### 7 The UCC Logo (Easy Preparation)

Leader preparation: Read and reflect on Hebrews 13:1–8, 15–16. If available, read a commentary on this scripture. Read the background about the UCC logo found at <http://www.ucc.org/about-us/ucc-logo.html>. From there you may also make copies of the oval UCC logo for this session.

##### Supplies:

- a copy of the oval UCC logo for each participant
- Bibles
- pencils

The United Church of Christ is known for its statement, "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." Invite the group to look at the copy of the United Church of Christ logo. Ask: What do you see there that represents this kind of welcome? Tell about the background of the logo from the UCC website and then ask, "What else about this logo represents a sense of welcome and hospitality?" Invite the participants to trace the diagram of the UCC logo on the handout with a pencil as you read Hebrews 13:1–8, 15–16. Let them know that they are welcome to allow the pencil to veer off of the logo if the words in the scripture move them to doodle in other ways. Based on the UCC logo background information and the Hebrews scripture, have the group brainstorm ways your congregation can put into practice some of these welcoming ideas, particularly around the concept of "all being one." Do any of these ideas come from the participants' logo doodles?

#### 8 Make a Human UCC Logo

Leader preparation: Prepare a brief presentation about the UCC logo based on the information found at <http://www.ucc.org/about-us/ucc-logo.html>, and make a large copy of the oval UCC logo found there. Arrange for a photographer in your congregation to be present with a camera.

##### Supplies:

- camera
- large copy of the oval UCC logo from <http://www.ucc.org/about-us/ucc-logo.html>

At your next all-church event, set aside some time to present the background about the UCC logo. Gather everyone in a large open area outside, if possible. Then arrange for everyone present to form the UCC logo, including the oval but without the words. If possible, have people wearing the same color form each

section of the logo. Have the photographer take a picture of the logo from a high vantage point. Entitle the photograph “You Are WELCOME Here” or use some other appropriate welcoming words, and hang the photo in your church’s foyer or entryway where all may see it.

### You Are Welcome Here Giveaways

Leader preparation: Read the background about the UCC logo found at

<http://www.ucc.org/about-us/ucc-logo.html>.

The UCC logo is downloadable from this site.

#### Supplies:

- Bible
- specific supplies depend on what your group decides to make

Design an item incorporating the UCC logo and a variation of the phrase, “You are welcome here,” to give away to visitors, new members, or others with whom your congregation comes in contact. Some suggestions are magnets, pins, T-shirts, ornaments, and the like. Visit your local craft store for more ideas. As your group is making these items, read Hebrews 13:1–8, 15–16, asking them to listen for examples of what “You Are Welcome Here” means.

### Reflect

In biblical times, knowing another’s name often revealed additional information about that person. What additional information did the members of your group take with them about the United Church of Christ?

### Attachment: Additional Resources for the Discovery Exploration

#### Books for Children

Grace, Catherine O'Neill, *1621: A New Look at Thanksgiving*, National Geographic Children's Books, 2004; ages 9-12, <http://www.tinyurl.com/2b7z82s>

Koller, Jackie French, *Nickommoh!: A Thanksgiving Celebration*, Scholastic, 2000; ages 4-8  
<http://www.tinyurl.com/2b5thmm>

Roland, Donna, *Grandfather's Stories from Germany*, Open My World Publishing, 1984; ages 9-12  
<http://www.tinyurl.com/27zu865>

Van Leeuwen, Jean, *Going West*, Puffin, 1997; ages 4-8, <http://www.tinyurl.com/2e8wn6n>

#### Books for Youth

Balaam's Courier Staff, *Balaam's Unofficial Handbook of the United Church of Christ*, United Church Press, 2008. Order from <http://www.tinyurl.com/2722cjsx>

*The United Church of Christ* - A 16-page booklet with an overview of the history and beliefs of the UCC. Order from <http://www.tinyurl.com/2bbe7vw> (formerly Channing L. Bete)

#### Books for Adults

Balaam's Courier Staff, *Balaam's Unofficial Handbook of the United Church of Christ*, United Church Press, 2008. Order from <http://www.tinyurl.com/2722cjsx>

Post, Margaret Rowland, revised by Thomas E. Dipko, *History and Program*, United Church Press, 2007. Order from <http://www.tinyurl.com/2fbxagm>

Zikmund, Barbara Brown, *Hidden Histories in the United Church of Christ, Vol. 1*, The Pilgrim Press, 1984. Order from <http://www.ucc.org>, click on "Buy It," then "UCC Resources"; online: <http://www.ucc.org/about-us/hidden-histories>

Zikmund, Barbara Brown, *Hidden Histories in the United Church of Christ, Vol. 2*, The Pilgrim Press, 2007. Order from <http://www.ucc.org>, click on "Buy It," then "UCC Resources"; online: <http://www.ucc.org/about-us/hidden-histories-2>

#### Websites

The UCC Logo: <http://www.ucc.org/about-us/ucc-logo.html>

What Matters: We Belong to Christ: <http://www.tinyurl.com/25et4bb>

Short Course in the History of the United Church of Christ: <http://www.ucc.org/about-us/short-course>

#### DVD

*UCC @ 50: Today's Visionaries, Tomorrow's Voices: The UCC's 50th Anniversary DVD*. Order from <http://www.tinyurl.com/26vefog>

### Attachment: Activity 2

# Reader's Theater: Stories from the UCC's Four Beginnings

## Children's Stories

*These four stories are adapted from "Our United Church of Christ" by Gail M. Hendrix and Janice B. Wyatt (United Church Press, © 1980, pp. 17-18).*

### Jonathan (Congregational)

I am a pilgrim! But I am a very tired pilgrim. My family and I arrived in the New World just this morning. We've been sailing on the Mayflower for over a hundred days! And it took longer than we expected because the weather made the ocean pretty rough. You wouldn't believe how high the waves got! And they were cold. The waves were so high that I thought they would swallow up the whole ship! But this morning we sailed into a quiet harbor. Our long trip is finally over. As soon as everyone came up on the deck, we thanked God for bringing us safely to a place where we can begin a new life. Here we will be free to worship God as we wish.

It was very exciting today for me and my sisters to help our parents pack up our things to take to shore tomorrow. Ever since we landed everyone has been talking about how we will build a town. My father told me that the houses will be small because they have to be built quickly before the weather gets too cold. In the very center of the town, he said, there will be a meetinghouse. This is where we will come together to worship God.

Now the Mayflower is rocking gently in the harbor. My family and I will spend one last night on this ship. I am so very glad that our ocean trip is over. Tomorrow will be the beginning of a new adventure in a new land. So excuse me now. I'm very tired (yawn) and I need to get some sleep. Tomorrow is a big day! Good night.

### Brigita (Reformed)

My goodness, this road is bumpy! But I guess when you're riding in the back of a wagon, you've got to expect a few bumps here and there. (Hold hand up over eyes to shade from the sun.) I can see four more wagons behind us. My best friend, Greta—her wagon is just there. (Point.) Our families have packed up all of our belongings into these wagons. But before that, we sailed across the ocean from Germany! That was a long trip, but somehow this wagon ride seems even longer! We got the wagons in Philadelphia and now we're headed out to the center of Pennsylvania. My cousins are there! They came to America two years ago with my aunt and uncle. They wrote letters to us about their life in America and now we're coming to live here, too.

Greta's father is a Reformed pastor. She told me that the small German churches in this new land need ministers. Their wagon is really full because it has all of their belongings plus German Bibles and other special books. Before we got in the wagons, Greta showed me a small stained glass window that her father is bringing for the new church that's being built by the Reformed people in the town. It will be a special surprise for them! I am glad that Greta's father will be our pastor. He leads worship in German. I couldn't understand a word of the English that I heard in Philadelphia.

(Pretend to be jolted by the wagon going over a bump.) Whoa! That was a big bump in the road! I can hear my parents talking up in front of the wagon. They are saying that the soil will be good in this new land for growing the food we'll need. And they want to raise cows for milk. I think they are just as excited to be in America as I am. I can't wait to get to our new home!

### Nancy (Christian)

Shh! I can't speak very loudly because I'm supposed to be listening to Reverend Stone preach. But I just have to tell you about this tent meeting. It's like nothing I've ever been to before, and I've lived here in Kentucky all my life. Everyone from miles around is here. Some rode their horses and some walked. But we heard that Reverend Barton Stone was coming to preach and he's famous! So we had to come and see.

My father told me that he had something new to say. He says that followers of Jesus should be called Christians and not other names like Methodists or Presbyterians or Baptists. He says that all Christians should come together to form one church.

You might think that listening to the Reverend could be boring, but oh my goodness, it's not! We all brought picnic lunches and all of my friends are here with their parents. And Reverend Stone's words are full of energy. I like how he thinks and I think he's right. I can feel the excitement that he's spreading to everyone. Oh, I need to stop talking right now because it's time for the singing. I'm so glad that my father brought me to this tent meeting. Thanks for letting me share it with you!

## Giving and Receiving Hospitality

*(Reader's Theater: Stories from the UCC's Four Beginnings, continued)*

### **Hans (Evangelical)**

Only two more days and this long boat ride will be over! I'm going to St. Louis. It's where I'm going to live now. I came from Germany, but I've been looking forward to my new home in America for a long time. I love standing on the captain's deck. Here I can see what's going on all up and down the banks of the Mississippi River. I see my German friends and their fathers down below. They are easy to spot because they wear flat black hats and black coats, and they are speaking German. This boat is loaded with all our belongings. We've also brought our very large German Bibles and some hymnbooks. Our Evangelical church will use them for worship and for teaching children like me in this new land.

I wonder what St. Louis will be like... I'm sure it will be very different from my home in Germany. But I know that there are other German children like me who have already moved there with their families. Like me, they wanted to find a new home in America.

### **Stories for Adults and/or Youth**

Recruit four adults or youth to do some minimal research on one of the four traditions that make up the United Church of Christ. Have them visit <http://www.ucc.org/about-us/short-course> and choose one of the following in the left sidebar: Congregationalism, German Reformed Church, The Christian Churches, or German Evangelical Synod. Have them write a short monologue to share dramatically with the group. Another option is to divide all the learners into four groups and have each group write the monologue together. These can then be shared with the large group or in another community setting in the life of your congregation.

After the stories are shared, ask, "How do you think each of these four people (children) experienced a sense of welcome?" (One common thread is that each of them was grounded in their church community.)

**Attachment: Activity 3**

## **Interview Questions for the Church Historian**

*These questions are adapted from "Our United Church of Christ"  
by Gail M. Hendrix and Janice B. Wyatt (United Church Press, c. 1980, p. 69).*

1. How was your congregation founded? Why? When? By whom?
2. How did the original church members choose the name for your church?
3. Did this church join with another church? If so, which one and when?
4. When did this congregation join the United Church of Christ?
5. Tell about the people who lived in this community when the church was founded.
6. How many ministers have served this church?  
What are some interesting stories to tell about one of our ministers?
7. What was the first service of worship like?
8. When did the church school begin? What was church school like when you were a child?
9. Do you have any memorabilia that you can show us and talk about?
10. How has this church ministered to others through the years?
11. What physical changes have taken place in this church building?
12. What kind of hospitality has been provided by this church during each century of its existence?

# Giving and Receiving Hospitality



## Exploration: Scripture

### About this Setting

Over the centuries, the founding ancestors of the United Church of Christ grounded themselves in scripture. The stories of our Judeo-Christian forebears recorded in the Bible continue to inform and transform the work, worship, and daily life within the various settings of the United Church of Christ. Our extravagant welcome cannot be extended fully until we know who it is that we are welcoming. We need to know their story, and we invite them to share in the common stories of our faith—the stories from scripture. When stories are shared and when we discover exciting commonalities, as well as fascinating differences, we then know how best to welcome each other into a new life together.

### About this Exploration

As hospitality and scripture intersect, we acknowledge the many ways people enter and encounter sacred story. Multiple intelligences, cultural experiences, social locations, and life experiences impact the reading and interpretation of scripture. This invites dialogue, mutual learning, and broadened understanding. Hospitality requires a commitment to multiple expressions of the story. We honor one another and one another's viewpoints. We are called to embody scripture in the context of a diverse world with many sacred texts. At the intersection of hospitality and scripture, the sacred story challenges and changes all.

BIBLE FOCUS PASSAGES:

**Genesis 18:1-15**  
**(21:1-17)**  
**Isaiah 25:1-9**

**Leader Preparation**

In this session on scripture, the concept of hospitality is explored using three different scriptures--one from the Torah, one from a prophet, and one from a gospel. You may choose to focus the session on only one scripture reading and may do so by choosing the same numbered item from each type of activities. But it is also possible to "mix and match" by choosing any one item from each of the three kinds of activities to explore hospitality from two or three different scriptures. If you include children in this session, read the scriptures from a children's Bible as well. Throughout this session, help the participants to observe how scripture can and does inform our sense of hospitality today. For further information about scripture and the Bible see Attachment: "Additional Resources for Scripture."

*Prayer: God of All Time, inspire us with your Word, transform us through these scriptures, and guide us with the love with which you blessed our ancestors in the faith. Amen.*

Exploring & Engaging Activities

 **1 Hospitality Code (Easy Preparation)**

Leader Preparation: Read and reflect on Genesis 18:1-15. If available, read one or more commentaries on this passage from Genesis.

Supplies:

- Bibles

Read together the story of the strangers' visit to Abraham and Sarah. If the members of your group are agreeable to it, invite volunteers to mime the actions as the story is being read. Explain to the participants that in Abraham's day in the Middle East where he lived, a cultural code of hospitality required people to take strangers into their homes and treat them as members of the family. Anyone who did not follow this code brought shame to themselves and to their family. In the United Church of Christ, one way we read scripture is through this lens of "extravagant welcome." Ask questions such as: If three strangers such as these had approached your door, how would you have greeted them? Why do you think hospitality was different in Abraham's day? How would you greet similar "strangers" at the door of your church? Why might you treat them differently at church than at home? Why might you treat them differently than Abraham did? How do you think God wants us to treat strangers?

 **2 God's Hospitality for All**

Leader Preparation: Read and reflect on Isaiah 25:1-9. If available, read one or more commentaries on this passage from Isaiah. Make copies of the handout: Isaiah 25:1-9.

Supplies:

- copies of Isaiah 25:1-9, Attachment: Activity 2
- pens or pencils

Give a copy of the handout of Isaiah 25:1-9 to each participant along with a pen or pencil. Invite each one to underline every phrase that speaks to or resonates with him or her. When they complete that task, tell them that as the leader reads the scripture, they are to read along out loud, but only the phrases that they have individually underlined. The effect should be a reading of the scripture as an unrehearsed choral reading. At the conclusion of the reading, ask: Where do you see signs of God's "extravagant welcome" in this passage? In the United Church of Christ, we endeavor to provide this "extravagant welcome" through the work of our churches. What are some ways listed in the passage that our church can offer this kind of hospitality? For children, ask: Where in this passage do you see that God loves and welcomes you?

### Session Development

For each session leaders may choose from 9 activities that help learners engage the practice of faith. It is best to select at least one activity from Exploring and Engaging, at least one from Discerning and Deciding, and at least one from Sending and Serving. The first activity in each category is designed for “easy preparation” (able to be done with minimal preparation using supplies normally found at the church). Using all 9 activities could take 90-120 minutes.

\* To plan a session of 30-45 minutes, choose 3 activities using one activity from each category.

\* To plan a session of 45-60 minutes, choose 4 or 5 using at least one activity from each category.

### ③ Breakfast at the Campfire

Leader Preparation: Read and reflect on John 21:1–19. If available, read one or more commentaries on this passage from John. Prepare to present this scripture as a story using the following guidelines:

#### How To Tell a Story

Story-telling is one of the most effective means of sharing the stories of the Bible with people of all ages. It makes sense because much of the Bible was originally passed from generation to generation through oral tradition. Not only that, but we are already adept at telling stories because we do it every day. How many times have you come home from school or work and said, “Guess what happened to me today?” And the story begins.

While we tell stories all the time, it is possible to lose confidence when we are given the responsibility to tell an important story and to tell it in a way that teaches and even transforms others. But we already have it in us; we can do it. The trick is to recall what goes on in your head when you respond to a question like, “So what did you do today?” What follows are some suggestions for how to begin:

**Step One:** Read the story over a few times until you have put yourself in the shoes of each character.

**Step Two:** Jot down or remember the main events of the story.

**Step Three:** Read through the story one more time, very slowly, creating mental images for yourself. What does the setting look like? Are there any distinctive smells? What can you hear, and what does it sound like? Does the story allow you to taste or touch anything?

**Step Four:** Now re-tell the story from memory. You will be surprised how much you remember and can tell of the story because you are simply describing the mental images in your head to your audience. Have fun with these stories!

**Step Five:** Be sure to have an open Bible on your lap when telling a story from the Bible. This helps your audience (especially children) to make a visual connection with the source of the story.

If possible, arrange for the group to meet around a campfire, and provide fish to cook and bread. There are portable grills and fireboxes that can be used to make a campfire without having to dig a pit or make a permanent place.

#### Supplies:

- Bibles
- campfire (optional)
- cooking utensils
- fish
- bread

Recreate an ancestral tradition of telling stories around a campfire. If possible, cook fish and offer bread to enhance the telling of John 21:1–19. In an address to members of the United Church of Christ gathered at the Dunkirk Colloquy in 2000, UCC General Minister and President John Thomas noted that the Bible is “the penultimate instrument of mediation through which the ultimate living Word encounters us full of challenge, comfort, judgment, grace, and truth.” (<http://www.tinyurl.com/2gxbh8m>) Where in this scripture do you find challenge? Comfort? Judgment? Grace? Truth?

## Discerning & Deciding Activities

### 4 A Different Point of View (Easy Preparation)

Leader Preparation: Read and reflect on Genesis 18:1–15. If available, read one or more commentaries on this passage from Genesis.

**Supplies:**

- Bibles

Before reading the story of the strangers' visit to Abraham and Sarah, describe the six characters to the participants and invite each one to choose the character that most intrigues him or her: Abraham, Sarah, a servant, "The Lord," or one of the two other strangers. During the reading, each participant will visualize the story from the point of view of the chosen character. Ask questions such as: What did you learn from the perspective of your character? In what way did you give or receive hospitality? Would you define this act of hospitality, as we say in the United Church of Christ, as an "extravagant welcome"? In what way? Will this type of hospitality encourage you to change any of your current behaviors? Why or why not?

### 5 Three To Do Lists

Leader Preparation: Read and reflect on Isaiah 25:1–9. If available, read one or more commentaries on this passage from Isaiah.

**Supplies:**

- Bibles
- newsprint or whiteboard and markers
- sheets of paper

As a group, read Isaiah 25:1–9 and then brainstorm the following three lists on newsprint:

- a. What does God do?
- b. What are we to do?
- c. Who are the recipients of the items in each of the other two lists?

Read the following quote from former UCC General Minister and President, John Thomas, from his address to UCC members at the 2000 Dunkirk Colloquy: "[The Bible] simply tells us the truth about the way we are with ourselves and with each other, the way we are with God, and above all the way God is with us." (<http://www.tinyurl.com/2gxbh8m>) Ask: In light of this quote, compared to what is contained in these lists, what is God asking of this congregation in the way we are with God? In the way we are with others? What is the next step to be taken in order to complete these tasks together? For children, invite them to draw pictures in response to the first three newsprint questions, then encourage them to talk about what they drew.

### 6 Jesus' Questions

Leader Preparation: Read and reflect on John 21:1–19. If available, read one or more commentaries on this passage from John. For children, cut out an outline of a sheep from stiff cardboard for each participant. Color the faces with a black marker.

#### Supplies:

- Bibles
- prepared cardboard sheep
- yarn
- scissors
- black marker

As a group, read John 21:1–19. Invite the participants to echo Jesus' words in unison after you read the phrase. Then discuss the following questions: What do you think Jesus meant when he said, "Feed my lambs," "Tend my sheep," and "Feed my sheep?"

Why do you think Jesus questioned Peter three times?

In the United Church of Christ, we read the Bible wearing "justice glasses." Based on his interaction with Peter, what do you think Jesus wants us to do through these "lenses"?

For children, invite them to share how they care for their pets (or the pets of a relative if they don't have one). Ask: How do you think Jesus cares for his sheep? How does Jesus care for us? Invite them to make "sheep" by winding yarn around the cardboard sheep's body until covered.

## Sending & Serving Activities

### 7 Stranger Scavenger Hunt (Easy Preparation)

Leader Preparation: Make a mental list of some of the places in your church building that may present an obstacle for a new visitor. For information about the United Church of Christ's emphasis on being Accessible To All (A2A), visit <http://www.tinyurl.com/2eqota3>.

#### Supplies:

- Bibles
- small pads of paper
- pens or pencils

Read and reflect on Genesis 18:1–15. Then send the participants on a "scavenger hunt" throughout your church's facility (inside and out) to find places and missing items that may prove to be obstacles to the kind of hospitality you would want to extend to a new visitor. For example, a lack of signage for the location of the nursery, or a handicap access ramp that is not visible from the main entrance. Bring a compiled list to your pastor and the committees that attend to your church's facility and hospitality.

### 8 Hospitable Choices

Leader Preparation: Read and reflect on Isaiah 25:1–9. If available, read one or more commentaries on this passage from Isaiah. Prepare a worship center with such items as a candle, a glass of water, and a towel or stole.

**Supplies:**

- Bibles
- candle
- matches
- glass of water
- towel or stole or other symbols of hospitality for a worship center

Light the candle and prayerfully read Isaiah 25:1-9 in unison. Invite each participant to silently choose 1-3 words from the scripture that represent how he or she will respond to God's hospitality. Share each word/phrase one at a time around the circle as a closing prayer. Invite younger children to act out their response.

### 9 Feed My Sheep

Leader preparation: Read and reflect on John 21:1–19.

**Supplies:**

- Bibles
- a loaf of (homemade) bread

As a group, read John 21:1–19. Invite the participants to stand or sit in a circle. The leader will go to each participant, break off a piece of bread, and share it saying, “Go and feed my sheep.” Allow a time of silence for the participants to prayerfully eat the bread and respond inwardly to the call to “feed my sheep.” Close by saying “Amen” or by singing a favorite hymn or song known to the group.

## Reflect

Scripture has the power to transform. In what ways were the members of your group transformed by scripture? By the community that was formed? By the movement of the Holy Spirit?

## Attachment: Additional Resources for Scripture

### Children's Bibles for Older Elementary Readers (or can be read to younger children)

Cerqueda, Joan Baro I., *The Bible: A People Listen to God*, Liturgical Press, 1999. Conscientiously retold Bible stories in the order in which they were created (begins with the story of Abram/Abraham). Gives children (and adults) a better understanding of the chronology of biblical history. Includes fascinating and helpful introductions to each of its eight sections of Bible stories.

<http://www.tinyurl.com/27qvspj>

Milton, Ralph, *The Family Story Bible*, Westminster John Knox Press, 1997. Provides gender balance and inclusive language for God. <http://www.tinyurl.com/2962so5>

Water, Mark, *The Pilgrim Book of Bible Stories*, The Pilgrim Press, 2003. Includes a helpful Bible content chart/timeline. <http://www.tinyurl.com/2cotsev>

### Children's Bibles for Beginning Readers

Beers, V. Gilbert, *The Early Readers' Bible*, Zonderkidz, 2001; ages 4 to 8. Sixty-four familiar Bible stories, based on standard public school word lists. Includes questions for pondering and relating the stories to the child's everyday life. <http://www.tinyurl.com/255p5p9>

Henley, Karen, *The Beginners' Bible: Timeless Children's Stories*, Zonderkidz, 2005; ages 4 to 8. Ninety-five familiar Bible stories rewritten for children. <http://www.tinyurl.com/23t3ar2>

### Bible Study Books for Adults

Duerling, Nan, *The Word and You: A Lectionary-Based Exploration of the Bible, Vol. 1*, The Pilgrim Press, 1997. Order from <http://www.tinyurl.com/29vgd7u>

Duerling, Nan, *The Word and You: A Lectionary-Based Exploration of the Bible, Vol. 2*, The Pilgrim Press, 1998. Order from <http://www.tinyurl.com/28oygg9>

Duerling, Nan, *The Word and You: A Lectionary-Based Exploration of the Bible, Vol. 3*, The Pilgrim Press, 2000. Order from <http://www.tinyurl.com/2bcqeay>

Essex, Barbara, *Bible for Vital Congregations*, The Pilgrim Press, 2008. Order from <http://www.tinyurl.com/237lowj>

de la Torre, Miguel A., *Reading the Bible from the Margins*, Orbis Books, 2002. Order from <http://www.tinyurl.com/25vcwwq>

The Stillspeaking Bible Study: <http://www.tinyurl.com/23hqyo3>

### Websites

The Bible and the United Church of Christ: <http://www.tinyurl.com/29z5tsh>, click on "How to read the Bible"

### How to pray with the Bible

<http://www.tinyurl.com/26lhjxb>, click on "How to pray with the Bible"

### UCC Online Bible Studies

Weekly Seeds: An in-depth reflection on next Sunday's Bible reading: To subscribe, visit <http://www.tinyurl.com/2b66amj>

The Stillspeaking Online Daily Devotional: To subscribe, visit <http://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional>

Attachment: Activity 2

## Isaiah 25:1-9

O Lord, you are my God;

I will exalt you, I will praise your name;  
for you have done wonderful things,  
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

<sup>2</sup>For you have made the city a heap,  
the fortified city a ruin;

the palace of aliens is a city no more,  
it will never be rebuilt.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;  
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

<sup>4</sup>For you have been a refuge to the poor,  
a refuge to the needy in their distress,  
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,

<sup>5</sup>the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,  
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;  
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

<sup>6</sup>On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

<sup>7</sup>And he will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;  
he will swallow up death forever.

<sup>8</sup>Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the Lord has spoken.

<sup>9</sup>It will be said on that day,  
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.  
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;  
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

# Giving and Receiving Hospitality



## Exploration: Discipleship

### About this Setting

In its Statement of Faith the United Church of Christ offers a testimony of faith rather than a test of faith. Discipleship is encouraged through the descriptions of the beliefs and mission of this denomination. Discipleship is described as offering joy as well as a cost. Discipleship may not always be the easy way, but it is the faithful way. Throughout the UCC Statement of Faith, we are encouraged to know Jesus better, to love God more fully, and to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit—to share the hospitality of God's love for us, all through a life of discipleship.

### About this Exploration

Hospitable disciples see God in each encounter with the people in our daily lives and those who lie beyond our usual circles of experience. The distinctions between other and self decrease when other living creatures and the earth are encountered as a sacred system of interrelationships. We practice hospitality in cultures with habits of expected interaction. However, Jesus calls us to habits of attentiveness which go beyond our own cultures, needs and experiences. As disciples, all can be encouraged to see the face of Jesus in every experience of hospitality. Hospitality encompasses giving and receiving. Receiving the gift of hospitality from another, even when uncomfortable, embodies receiving God's many gifts to our world.

BIBLE FOCUS PASSAGES:  
**John 13:1-17, 31b-35**  
**Acts 2:42-47**

## Leader Preparation

The activities presented here are intended for intergenerational groups of youth, adults, and elementary age children. It is also possible to use these activities specifically for a group of adults or youth or children. In the cases where an activity leans more toward older participants, a suggestion is offered for use with children. As the leader of the session, be sure to adapt the activities to the specific learning abilities in your group. For additional information about the United Church of Christ Statement of Faith see Attachment: "Additional Information about the United Church of Christ Statement of Faith."

Find a quiet moment to read and reflect on the UCC Statement of Faith. With which parts do you resonate? With which parts is it more difficult for you to connect? How does this document inform your own personal faith?

*Prayer: I believe in you O God, Eternal Spirit,*

*Help me to accept the cost and joy of discipleship.*

*Help me to be your servant in the service of others.*

*Help me to trust in your presence in trial and rejoicing.*

*Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.*

*Amen.*

## Exploring & Engaging Activities



### 1 Introduction to the UCC Statement of Faith (Easy Preparation)

Leader preparation: Make copies of the Attachment: "United Church of Christ Statement of Faith in the Form of a Doxology." Read and become familiar with the information in the Attachment: "Information About the United Church of Christ Statement of Faith."

#### Supplies:

- handout: "The United Church of Christ Statement of Faith," Attachment: Activity 1 (*information plus the statement in the form of a doxology*)
- pens or pencils

Invite the group to read the handout and then to underline all the statements within the Statement of Faith that have an element of hospitality. Share the reasons for the choices with the entire group. Ask: How can this Statement of Faith shape the way we welcome people to our church? In our daily lives?

With a younger group, divide into small groups or pairs to act out some of these hospitable statements.



### 2 How Many?

Leader preparation: Make copies of the Attachment: "United Church of Christ Statement of Faith in the Form of a Doxology." Read and become familiar with the information in the Attachment: "Information About the United Church of Christ Statement of Faith." If the participants in this session are youth or older children, this activity can be presented as a timed game/challenge.

#### Supplies:

- handout: "The United Church of Christ Statement of Faith," Attachment: Activity 1 (*information plus the statement in the form of a doxology*)
- pens or pencils

Invite the participants, as quickly as possible, to find how many times the word "God" appears in the UCC Statement of Faith. How many times does "you" or "your" appear? Christ? Holy Spirit? Then have them more carefully count the number of verbs or action words. How many words or phrases are synonymous with or symbolize hospitality? What do these numbers tell us about what we believe and who we welcome?



### 3 The Statement of Faith Game

Leader preparation: Make one copy of the handout "The Statement of Faith Game" and glue it to a piece of cardboard, if available. Gather a game token for each participant such as coins, small stones, small disks of various colors. If you do not have access to a die, use a coin to flip where heads = 3 spaces and tails = 1 space.

#### Supplies:

- handout: The Statement of Faith Game, Attachment: Activity 3
- game tokens, die or coin
- cardboard, glue (optional)

### Session Development

For each session leaders may choose from 9 activities that help learners engage the practice of faith. It is best to select at least one activity from Exploring and Engaging, at least one from Discerning and Deciding, and at least one from Sending and Serving. The first activity in each category is designed for “easy preparation” (able to be done with minimal preparation using supplies normally found at the church). Using all 9 activities could take 90–120 minutes.

\* To plan a session of 30–45 minutes, choose 3 activities using one activity from each category.

\* To plan a session of 45–60 minutes, choose 4 or 5 using at least one activity from each category.

Play The Statement of Faith Game where each participant rolls the die (or flips the coin) to move his or her token and follow the directions on the square where the token lands. The purpose of this game is not to be the one to reach the end first, but rather to listen to and share stories of being a disciple of Jesus.

### Discerning & Deciding Activities

#### 4 Aspects of Discipleship (Easy Preparation)

Leader preparation: Read and meditate on John 13:1–17, 31b–35 and Acts 2:42–47, and if possible, read a Bible commentary on these scriptures, in preparation for leading the discussion.

##### Supplies:

- Bibles

After reading the two scriptures together, brainstorm ways your entire congregation can perform acts of discipleship together. Which of these aspects of discipleship can be considered welcoming? Which ones can you put into action right away?

#### 5 Wade in the Water

Leader preparation: If you do not know the song “Wade In the Water,” invite your church musician to assist you with leading this for the group. Make copies of the handout, “The United Church of Christ Statement of Faith.” For more background information, visit <http://www.tinyurl.com/2g3ac9o>

##### Supplies:

- copies of the song “Wade in the Water” (tune: African-American Traditional), <http://www.tinyurl.com/FPSong2>
- copies of the handout: “The United Church of Christ Statement of Faith,” Attachment: Activity 1
- newsprint or whiteboard and markers

The phrase in the UCC Statement of Faith, “You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,” is one of both encouragement and acknowledgment of struggle. As a group, make a list of the costs and another list of the joys of discipleship. Choose a leader to prayerfully read a line from the costs list (“Gracious and Loving God, be with us as we \_\_\_\_\_”) followed by a verse or refrain of “Wade in the Water” sung by all. Repeat this sequence alternating between the two lists. Close the prayer with the last paragraph of the UCC Statement of Faith (“You promise to all who trust you ...”).



### 6 The Peaceable Kingdom

Leader preparation: Study the poster before the session so that you have identified animals and color, action, and mood.

#### Supplies:

- poster <http://www.tinyurl.com/UCCResources>, “The Peaceable Kingdom” by John August Swanson
- art supplies such as paints, old newspapers to protect tables
- copies of the handout: “The United Church of Christ Statement of Faith,” Attachment: Activity 1

Allow about five minutes for the group to study the poster. As they examine the animals and colors, etc., encourage them to ask themselves: Where do I see peace and justice here? Where is God in this painting? Where is God’s realm? Invite them to use the art supplies to create their own image of a peaceable kingdom.

## Sending & Serving Activities



### 7 Prepare a Message (Easy Preparation)

Leader preparation: Gather all of the Bible commentaries and notes from the Exploring and Engaging and Discerning and Deciding sessions.

#### Supplies:

- Bibles
- paper
- pens or pencils
- a computer or word processor (optional)

If your group has completed most of the activities in Exploring and Engaging and Discerning and Deciding, use what was learned to prepare a message about the Statement of Faith to deliver to your congregation. It could be a sermon, a dialogue, a dramatic presentation, or some other creative expression of your own choosing.



### 8 Sing a Song; Write a Song

Leader preparation: Become familiar with the hymn “Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant?” <http://www.tinyurl.com/FPSong3> This hymn also can be found on page 539 of *The New Century Hymnal*. If there are musicians in your group, give them a copy of the hymn in advance so that they may accompany the group in singing it.

#### Supplies:

- hymnals or copies of the hymn “Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant?” (tune: SERVANT SONG) <http://www.tinyurl.com/FPSong3>
- copies of the handout: “The United Church of Christ Statement of Faith,” Attachment: Activity 1
- paper
- pens or pencils

Lead the group in singing the hymn. Divide them into three groups and assign

each group one of the last three paragraphs of the UCC Statement of Faith. Invite each group to write a new verse to the hymn based on the section assigned to them. (It doesn't have to rhyme, but the number of syllables needs to fit into the tune.) Then sing your new hymn and find ways to share it with the congregation.



### 9 “We Believe” Mural

Leader preparation: Become familiar with the handout, “The United Church of Christ Statement of Faith.”

#### Supplies:

- scrap paper
- pencils or pens
- mural paper
- paints
- paintbrushes
- smocks
- water tubs
- old newspapers
- old rags
- copies of the handout: “The United Church of Christ Statement of Faith,” Attachment: Activity 1

After a brief study of the UCC Statement of faith on the handout, have the group design a welcoming mural for the entryway (or other appropriate area) of your church that shows what you believe based on the UCC Statement of Faith.

## Reflect

What were the “costs” and “joys” of this session? How did the participants grow in their understanding of discipleship? How did they grow as disciples of Jesus?

## Attachment: Activity 1

### Information about The United Church of Christ Statement of Faith

*From Affirming Faith: A Confirmand's Journal (Cleveland: United Church Press, c. 1996, pp. 71-73)*

What does the United Church of Christ have in common with other Christian churches? This question may be just as important as its partner, "What makes the United Church of Christ different?" Both questions help us think about what it means to be a church and about how our faith in Jesus Christ is shown. To be active participants in the church of Jesus Christ, it is important to know who we are and what we believe. A creed can help us with this. A creed is a statement of belief or a confession of faith. In the United Church of Christ we share the common and ancient creeds of the Christian faith—the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed. But there is another statement, unique to the United Church of Christ, which unites us as a denomination. It is the Statement of Faith.

The Statement of Faith, first written in 1959 and rewritten in its more prayerful and doxological form in 1981, tells the glorious deeds of God. It is not a creed or test of faith. Rather, it declares the activity of God in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the church, and it outlines the promises made to those who enter a trusting relationship with God. It originated as a statement of common beliefs written to celebrate the birth of the United Church of Christ in 1957, uniting the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

At the large, national meeting (called the General Synod) in Cleveland, Ohio, where the merger happened in 1957, thirty people were elected, fifteen from each of the two founding denominations, to develop a Statement of Faith. Allen O. Miller refers to the Statement of Faith as "the wedding vows of our two unifying churches," which brought together diverse histories and traditions.

The United Church of Christ Statement of Faith was born out of dedicated study and prayer. Many parts of the Bible helped form the foundation:

The faith which unites us and to which we bear witness is that faith in God which the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments set forth, which the ancient church expressed in the ecumenical creeds, to which our own spiritual (forebears) gave utterance in the evangelical confessions of the Reformation, and which we are in duty bound to express in the words of our time as God...gives us light.

From the very beginning of the United Church of Christ, the Statement of Faith and other historical creeds were seen as ways to express faith in a given time and place. The Statement of Faith was presented as a testimony to the faith of the whole church, not as a test of faith for individual members.

After it was adopted by the Second General Synod in 1959 at Oberlin, Ohio, the Statement of Faith was offered to the whole church. Almost immediately local churches, associations, and conferences began to use the statement in creative ways in worship, study, and sermons. Since the original version was adopted, there have been two major revisions. In 1977, General Synod XI recommended a revision by Robert V. Moss, Jr., then the president of the United Church of Christ, which used inclusive language, and in 1983 General Synod XIV affirmed a revision in the form of a doxology, addressing God as in prayer.

The statement of Faith has a special place in the United Church of Christ. It is a powerful expression of God's saving acts and our invited response. It challenges Christians to "accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be God's servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil." Looking at the statement closely is an important step in discovering what it means to be a follower of Christ and a member of Christ's church.

## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STATEMENT OF FAITH IN THE FORM OF A DOXOLOGY

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,  
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,  
and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being,  
create persons in your own image,  
and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior,  
you have come to us  
and shared our common lot,  
conquering sin and death  
and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,  
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,  
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church  
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,  
to be your servants in the service of others,  
to proclaim the gospel to all the world  
and resist the powers of evil,  
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,  
to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you  
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,  
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,  
your presence in trial and rejoicing,  
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.  
Amen.



# Giving and Receiving Hospitality



## Exploration: Christian Tradition

### About this Setting

One tradition valued by the United Church of Christ is that of covenant. The covenants between God and God's people that are illustrated in the Bible have influenced and formed the people of God since the days of the early church. It is through covenant that God's presence and guidance are felt as God's people live together in hospitable ways. It is through covenant that God's people rely on each other to provide a cooperative and hospitable existence as they strive to live, work, and grow together. It is through covenant that we may all have the opportunity to reach a deeper understanding when we see Christ's presence within each other.

### About this Exploration

God continually invites us to extravagantly welcome others into abundant life. We are not the first to experience questions, failures, accomplishments, joys and sorrows. Our Christian tradition gives us ancestors in faith whose stories and life experiences inform our own. Every drop of water reminds us of Christ's baptism. Shared meals recall Jesus' breaking bread and sharing the cup. Grounded in Hebrew tradition, Jesus displayed radical commitment to the poor. Love for the poor continues to characterize Christian community. God invites us to welcome those whom we encounter in daily life, and those we might not otherwise encounter, to see them as God's beloved people, and treasure the diversity of humanity. We are called by God to create a safe, welcoming environment for all. We join the family of all time.

**BIBLE FOCUS PASSAGES:**

**Mark 14:22-25**  
**1 Peter 4:1-11**

**Leader Preparation**

The activities presented here are intended for intergenerational groups of youth, adults, and elementary age children. It is also possible to use these activities specifically for a group of adults or youth or children. In the cases where an activity leans more toward older participants, a suggestion is offered for use with children. As the leader of the session, be sure to adapt the activities to the specific learning abilities in your group. For further information about covenant in the United Church of Christ see Attachment: Activity 5.

Make a mental list of the covenants you have made in your life (for example, marriage, employment contracts, other church or family commitments). Where is God in each one? What are some ways you can help the participants to recognize God's presence in the covenants you will examine?

*For the covenant of love,*

*I thank you, God.*

*For the covenant of family,*

*I thank you, God.*

*for the covenant of my community of faith,*

*I thank you, God.*

*For the covenant of my relationship with*

*you, I thank you, God. Amen.*

**Exploring & Engaging Activities**



**1 An Introduction to Covenants:  
Write Your Own Covenant (Easy Preparation)**

Leader Preparation: Read the handout: "Covenant," as well as the information about covenants in the United Church of Christ at <http://www.tinyurl.com/27cber3>.

**Supplies:**

- handout "Covenant" Attachment: Activity 5
- paper
- pens or pencils

After presenting and discussing with the group the handout "Covenant," create your group's own covenant for how you will continue to gather together as a group using the instructions at the bottom of the handout.



**2 Your Church's Covenant**

Leader Preparation: Read the information on the handout "Covenant" Attachment: Activity 1. Also become familiar with your congregation's covenant. For more information about covenants in the United Church of Christ, visit <http://www.tinyurl.com/27cber3>.

**Supplies:**

- copies of your church's covenant
- newsprint or whiteboard and markers
- paper
- pens or pencils

Distribute copies of your congregation's covenant to each participant. Divide the group into pairs and assign each pair a sentence from the covenant. Each pair is to re-write the sentence into their own words including concrete examples. If you are working with children, invite them to illustrate their "translation." Combine each pair's work on newsprint and, if possible, display on your church's website or in the newsletter alongside the actual covenant.

**3 Covenant, Covenant, Covenant**

Leader preparation: Locate and become familiar with how to use a concordance. Ask your pastor for assistance, if necessary. Your pastor or church library should have one or two concordances for you to borrow.

**Supplies:**

- 2 concordances
- Bibles
- paper
- pens or pencils

Divide the participants into two teams. Give each team a concordance and explain what it is and how it is used. Then assign one team the Old Testament and the other team the New Testament. Ask each team to find out how many times the word "covenant" appears in their section of the Bible. After they have done

### Session Development

For each session leaders may choose from 9 activities that help learners engage the practice of faith. It is best to select at least one activity from Exploring and Engaging, at least one from Discerning and Deciding, and at least one from Sending and Serving. The first activity in each category is designed for “easy preparation” (able to be done with minimal preparation using supplies normally found at the church). Using all 9 activities could take 90–120 minutes.

\* To plan a session of 30–45 minutes, choose 3 activities using one activity from each category.

\* To plan a session of 45–60 minutes, choose 4 or 5 using at least one activity from each category.

so, ask: Why do you think the word “covenant” is used so many more times in the Old Testament?

Invite each participant to look up and read a scripture passage that includes the word “covenant” to discover how the word is used there. Share this discovery with a partner. Who was this covenant made between? How is it similar to any covenants/agreements you live by today?

### Discerning & Deciding Activities



#### 4 Embrace of Peace (Easy Preparation)

Leader preparation: Obtain the poster “Embrace of Peace” and display it in a prominent place in your meeting space where all will be able to see it.

#### Supplies:

- poster <http://www.tinyurl.com/UCCResources>, “Embrace of Peace” by George Tooker

Invite the participants to spend about five minutes with the art. Encourage them to stand on the opposite side of the room, move in close, and move somewhere in between — engage the art from a few different perspectives. After the five minutes or so have passed, invite them to sit in a circle. Explain that they will create a group story about what was, is, and will be happening in the painting. Ask for a volunteer to begin (“Once upon a time ...”). Limit each person to one sentence. Continue around the circle until the group is satisfied with the conclusion of the story. Encourage discussion of the process with questions such as: How were the characters welcomed? What kind of (invisible) covenant has been created? Where was God in this story?



#### 5 Covenant Collage

Leader Preparation: Take a walk around your church’s facility to seek out covenant symbols that the participants may choose to locate.

#### Supplies:

- copies of your congregation’s covenant or the handout “Covenant,” Attachment: Activity 5
- camera

Take your group on a “tour” of your church’s facility to seek out and take photos of the people, places, and things that represent the agreements in your church’s (or other) covenant. Create a photo collage or a bulletin board of the photos alongside key statements from the covenant. You may also wish to post these photos on your church’s website. Give it a welcoming title such as “You Are Welcome to Love, Worship, and Serve God With Us,” as appropriate to your church and covenant.

#### 6 The New Covenant

Leader preparation: Read and meditate on Mark 14:22–25 and 1 Peter 4:1–11. Arrange with your pastor or another ordained person to provide a service of Communion for your group.

### Supplies:

- communion supplies
- Bibles
- ingredients and table settings for a simple meal

Prepare a simple meal such as soup and bread (or invite group members to bring the food and table items) for this session. Begin the meal with a grace and explain that the food is to be shared in silence with everyone anticipating the needs of the others and serving one another. End this meal with a simple service of Communion. (Participants may resume talking at this time.)

Invite the participants to read silently to themselves Mark 14:22–25 and 1 Peter 4:1–11. Ask: What is the covenant that Jesus refers to? What kind of covenant was enacted during this session's service of Communion? How does the writer of 1 Peter view hospitality? In what way does this inform your understanding of the concept of covenant?

## Sending & Serving Activities

### 7 The "You Are Welcome Here" Game (Easy Preparation)

Leader preparation: Visit your meeting space before the session to determine if anything needs to be added or changed to assist with the intent of the session.

### Supplies: None

Ask for a volunteer to step outside your meeting space while the rest of the participants brainstorm ways to welcome the volunteer when he/she is invited to re-enter the room. Where should people be placed? How should the furniture be arranged? Are there any amenities that should be added or placed differently? What should be said? After the volunteer has been welcomed, invite him/her to describe what the welcome felt like. Repeat this process until everyone is satisfied with the kind of welcome that it is possible to extend given your meeting space. In what ways do we covenant with one another to extend an appropriate welcome? How do you do this at home? How is it done at church?

### 8 A Covenant Computer Presentation

Leader Preparation: Arrange with your church's leadership for an appropriate congregational occasion (such as your church's annual meeting) to present the Covenant computer presentation.

### Supplies:

- copies of the handout "Covenant," Attachment: Activity 5
- computer with presentation software, projector, screen
- a copy of your congregation's covenant

As a group, create a computer presentation based on your congregation's (or other) covenant. This presentation could include photographs, interviews, or any of the work the group has done in the activities in this Exploration.

### 9 Covenant Litany

Leader Preparation: To view samples of typical litanies, visit <http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways> and click on the services of worship, many of which may include litanies.

#### Supplies:

- copies of your congregation's (or other) covenant
- hymn "Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?" *The New Century Hymnal*, p. 539, <http://www.tinyurl.com/FPSong3>
- paper
- pens or pencils

Write a litany based on your congregation's (or other) covenant interspersed with stanzas of the hymn "Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?" Close this session by praying and singing this litany together. Ask your pastor to use it during an upcoming service of worship.

### Reflect

Covenants can be powerful examples of hospitality that is lived out. How was the concept of covenant lived out in this session? What adjustments do you need to make for future sessions?

Attachment: Activity 5

## Covenant

A covenant is a serious agreement made between two or more people. It is much like an agreement or contract such as those made in the business world; however, a covenant made within the church and among the people of God always includes God.

Both covenant and unity have been in our UCC heart since we formed in 1957 and they run through our blood because of our historical foreparents. In the Bible, God is a covenanting God. It is so central to us that Jesus' prayer for unity in John 17, "that they may be one," is the prayer inscribed on our logo. In our Statement of Faith, covenant is a gift of the Holy Spirit binding all faithful people together. We celebrate this covenant every time there is a baptism or we gather for Holy Communion. The first word when we utter our name, "United Church of Christ," expresses our yearning for covenant. "United!"

The most well-known covenant between God and humankind is the covenant of the rainbow found in the book of Genesis:

God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh." —Genesis 9:12-15 (NRSV)

# Giving and Receiving Hospitality



## Exploration: Context and Mission

### About this Setting

The United Church of Christ has a long tradition of extending hospitality to those in need through mission and service. Helping to provide basic needs and offering spiritual support in times of crisis are ways that UCC missionaries and congregations continue to serve people all over the world. Whether the need is halfway across the world or here in our own neighborhoods, outreach services through the United Church of Christ can assist and inspire congregations that want to respond to Jesus' words, "Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40b).

### About this Exploration

Hospitality marks the identity and inspires the action of a welcoming community. Discerning needs of the local community and expressing compassion for the global community call individuals and congregations to respond to the real need. Each individual brings unique gifts to the community and extends opportunities to share. Mission partnerships are never one-way streets. Risking outreach to others creates opportunities to receive. Feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and those in prison are ways of welcoming Christ into the community. Those sent forth in mission are uniquely able to return with lessons of hospitality offered by those who have been served. Looking to God for guidance, the open hearts and serving hands that reach out to the world are the same hearts and hands that welcome.

**BIBLE FOCUS PASSAGES:**  
**Romans 12:9–18**  
**John 6:1–21**

### Leader Preparation

The activities offered here are representative of the many opportunities for service provided through the United Church of Christ. Given the space limitations of this resource, they represent only a small sample. Be sure to work with your pastor and missions committee to continue the learnings and commitments begun here. For further information about mission in the United Church of Christ see Attachment: “Additional Resources for Context and Mission.”

Take a moment to think of times when you have served others. Then think of all of the times that others have served you. Which opportunities were easier to accept and appreciate—the times you served others or the times you were being served?

*Gracious and Loving God, (extend arms upward)*

*Be with me as I serve the participants of this session (extend arms outward)*

*and allow me to receive the gifts they in turn share with me (hold hands over heart)*

*Amen.*

### Exploring & Engaging Activities

#### 1 Five Loaves, Two Fish (Easy Preparation)

Leader preparation: Read and reflect on John 6:1–14.

##### Supplies:

- Bibles
- box of crackers
- basket or bowl

Recruit a volunteer to be the scripture reader and another to distribute and collect the crackers during the reading. Invite the participants to sit on the floor (if able) or arrange the chairs in a circle. Tell the participants that when they are served a cracker (when the scripture reader tells of the serving of the loaves and fish), they are invited to break a piece off to eat and put the other piece in the basket or bowl when it comes around during the “collection” part of the reading. At the conclusion of the reading, invite the participants to make observations about what just happened. Ask: In what ways have we just participated in a miracle? If your group includes elementary children or younger youth, ask: What are some ways that Jesus invites us to share what we have with others?

#### 2 Mission Firsts in the UCC

Leader preparation: Prepare the game “Mission First Charades” using the handout, Attachment: Activity 2

##### Supplies:

- copies of the information found at <http://www.tinyurl.com/2e7wdeq>
- prepared index cards

Tell the group that you will all be playing a game of “Charades” about mission-related firsts from the United Church of Christ’s history. Divide into two teams and hand out two index cards to each team. After you have finished the game, hand out the printout copies of the UCC Firsts webpage. For children, play Charades using phrases that represent mission through the church, such as “feed the hungry” and “teach reading.”

#### 3 Our Church’s Wider Mission: Plain Talk

Leader preparation: Preview the YouTube video “Our Church’s Wider Mission: Plain Talk” found at <http://www.ucc.org/ocwm>.

##### Supplies:

- computer with Internet access and projector

View “Our Church’s Wider Mission: Plain Talk.” Debrief the video by asking questions such as: Which scenario most closely resembles our church? What are we currently doing to help Our Church’s Wider Mission? What else can we do as a congregation to contribute to Our Church’s Wider Mission?

### Session Development

For each session leaders may choose from 9 activities that help learners engage the practice of faith. It is best to select at least one activity from Exploring and Engaging, at least one from Discerning and Deciding, and at least one from Sending and Serving. The first activity in each category is designed for “easy preparation” (able to be done with minimal preparation using supplies normally found at the church). Using all 9 activities could take 90–120 minutes.

\* To plan a session of 30–45 minutes, choose 3 activities using one activity from each category.

\* To plan a session of 45–60 minutes, choose 4 or 5 using at least one activity from each category.

### Discerning & Deciding Activities



#### 4 Romans Worksheet (Easy Preparation)

Leader preparation: Make copies of the Romans Worksheet. Fill out the worksheet for yourself beforehand so that you will be ready to assist others during the session if necessary.

##### Supplies:

- Bibles
- copies of the Romans Worksheet, Attachment: Activity 4
- pens or pencils
- extra sheets of paper

Ask for a volunteer to read aloud Romans 12:9–18. Then give the participants about 15 minutes to complete the worksheet. If your group consists of writers, invite them to choose one or more questions on which to journal for about 20 minutes. If your group includes elementary age children, invite them to focus on questions 1–7. Include the other questions, as appropriate for your particular group. Close the session by inviting volunteers to lead the group in prayer with the prayers they wrote on the worksheet.

#### 5 Calendar of Prayer Meeting

Leader preparation: Preview the UCC Calendar of Prayer at <http://www.ucc.org/worship/calendar>

and choose and make copies of several age-appropriate stories to use in this session.

##### Supplies:

- Bibles
- paper
- crayons or markers
- copies from the UCC Calendar of Prayer webpage

Have the group meet in a comfortable and quiet setting away from any noise or activity. Invite them to join you in a time of quiet meditation and prayer using selected stories from the UCC Calendar of Prayer. Open with an introduction to the UCC Calendar of Prayer and lead them (or ask for volunteers) in a scripture reading, the story from the Calendar of Prayer, silent meditation, and prayer. Use as many stories to repeat this cycle as you have time for. For a younger group, replace the silent meditation with journaling, drawing, group prayers, or another method of responding to the scripture and stories.

#### 6 Collection Boxes

Leader preparation: Visit <http://www.ucc.org/ocwm>,

<http://www.globalministries.org>, and <http://www.churchworldservice.org>

to review some of the possibilities for mission giving through the United Church of Christ and its partner agencies.

##### Supplies:

- computer with Internet access
- empty cardboard boxes

- sheets of white copy paper
- markers or paints and painting supplies

Share the information you found about the mission giving opportunities available through the United Church of Christ. As a group choose one focus to start a mission giving campaign within your congregation. Make collection boxes by decorating and covering cardboard boxes with the logos and symbols for the mission your group chooses, and make plans for how to involve your entire congregation in learning about and giving to this mission.

### Sending & Serving Activities



#### 7 The Haystack Prayer Meeting (Easy preparation)

Leader preparation: Read *The Haystack Prayer Meeting Story* found at <http://www.tinyurl.com/23wchll>.

##### **Supplies:**

- copies of the handout: Haystack Skit and Song, Attachment: Activity 7

Hand out copies of the Haystack Skit and ask for volunteers to fill the roles. Close by singing “The Haystack Song” to the tune of “This Little Light of Mine.”

#### 8 UCC Missions Montage

Leader preparation: Visit <http://www.ucc.org/ocwm> to become familiar with the variety of UCC-related mission opportunities available such as Strengthen the Church, <http://www.ucc.org/sc> One Great Hour of Sharing, <http://www.ucc.org/oghs> Neighbors in Need, <http://www.ucc.org/nin> and the Christmas Fund, <http://www.tinyurl.com/2dbwb7w>.

##### **Supplies:**

- computer with Internet access, projector, printer
- supplies specific to the display medium chosen

As a group, select the symbols and logos from several UCC-related mission opportunities to print out, define, and display somewhere in your church. Choose a display medium such as a mobile, a “garden” of signs on dowels, a bulletin board, a banner or poster, a stained glass window (tissue paper designs on a clear window) or another creative medium of your group’s choice.

#### 9 International Mission Pot Luck

Leader preparation: Arrange with your pastor for a time to host a potluck meal for the congregation with enough lead time to order mission-related placemats, DVDs, and other promotional mission materials available through Global Ministries (<http://www.globalministries.org>). Contact your Conference office or Global Ministries to see if a missionary would be available to speak at your meal.

### Supplies:

- as appropriate for your particular potluck meal

As a group, plan an International Mission Potluck for your congregation that includes foods from all over the world. Assist your congregation with recipe ideas and recipes. Provide mission materials such as placemats, show an informative DVD, and any other activities and materials you may discover through Global Ministries.

### Reflect

The United Church of Christ offers a wide variety of service opportunities through its settings—nationally, regionally, and locally. In what ways can you and your church continue to share God’s love and hospitality through mission and service?

### Attachment: Additional Resources for Context and Mission

#### Websites

Wider Church Ministries: <http://www.ucc.org/wcm>

Be a Global Mission Church (guides for youth and adults)

<http://www.tinyurl.com/2w66ogm>

Church World Service (CROP Walk, School Kits, Hygiene Kits, Baby Kits, Blankets+)

<http://www.churchworldservice.org>

One Great Hour of Sharing (includes resources for children and youth): <http://www.ucc.org/oghs>

Youth and Children Resources: <http://www.tinyurl.com/2umh9n5>

Build A Better World (children's curriculum)

<http://www.tinyurl.com/cs3bo6>

Journey to India downloadable VBS curriculum: <http://www.tinyurl.com/35gazae>

Kids to Kids! (share your children's mission project with others)

<http://www.tinyurl.com/2wqv9zm>

Child Sponsorship: <http://www.tinyurl.com/374wqt7>

Missionary Relationships: <http://www.tinyurl.com/2v5aklj>

Church-to-Church Partnerships:

<http://www.tinyurl.com/2uzwblg>

UCC Calendar of Prayer: <http://www.ucc.org/worship/calendar>

Our Church's Wider Mission (Strengthen the Church, One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors In Need, the Christmas Fund): <http://www.ucc.org/ocwm>

#### DVDs/Videos:

Our Church's Wider Mission: Plain Talk: <http://www.ucc.org/ocwm>

Connecting Threads: Around the World with Global Ministries (with study guide)

<http://www.tinyurl.com/3yb522k>

CWS: 60 Years of Help and Hope:

<http://www.tinyurl.com/32mwg2v>

**Attachment: Activity 2**

## **Charades: Mission Firsts in the UCC**

Read about the first foreign mission society and three other mission-related UCC firsts at <http://www.tinyurl.com/2e7wdeq>.

These are the phrases to use for the game of Charades. Write each one on a separate index card:

- foreign mission society
- missionaries to India
- missionaries to Near East
- Missionary Herald magazine

## **A Charades Refresher Rules for playing Charades**

1. First indicate how many words are in the title. (Hold up the number of fingers.)
2. Next, indicate which word you want to start acting out: hold up three fingers for “third word” and so on.
3. To divide the word into syllables: lay down “x” number of fingers on your forearm (where x is the number of syllables.)
4. To act out the first syllable, lay down one finger on your arm, etc.
5. When someone calls out a correct word, the actor touches his/her nose meaning “on the nose.”
6. “sounds like” Cup your hand around your ear.
7. “little word” Bring your thumb and index fingers close together. The people guessing should now call out every little word they can think of (“on, in, the, and”) until you gesticulate wildly to indicate the right word.
8. “close, keep guessing!” Frantically wave hands to keep the guesses coming.
9. “whole phrase at once” Sweep your arms in a big circle to indicate “whole thing.”
10. “past tense” Wave your hand downwards behind your back.

Adapted from <http://www.tinyurl.com/32mwg2v>

**Attachment: Activity 4**

## Romans Worksheet

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. --Romans 12:9-18

1. **Has anyone ever said mean things about you? Why do you think they did this?**
2. **How would you ask God to help them?**
3. **Who needs you to be their friend right now?**
4. **Who is not your friend now, but might need you to be their friend?**
5. **How does God want us to show hospitality to people we do not know?**
6. **How would you welcome a “stranger” into your home?**
7. **Have you ever tried to show people that you are smarter or wiser than you are? How?**
8. **Have you ever “gotten someone back” who hurt you? What might have been a better way to deal with that situation in God’s eyes?**
9. **Make a list of at least 3 ways you can live more peaceably with others.**
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
10. **Make another list of at least 3 ways you can help others in need.**
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
11. **Write a brief prayer asking God to help you treat others more hospitably this week.**

Attachment: Activity 7

## Haystack Skit

**Narrator's introduction:** Imagine that we were gathered in a field about two hundred years ago, in the privacy of Sloan's meadow, quite a distance from where the Williams students resided. Five of the young men of that time had come out away from their studies in order to join together in prayer. They were, by name and age: Samuel Mills, age 23; James Richards, age 22; Francis Robbins, age 19; Harvey Loomis, age 21; and Byram Green, age 20. Let's listen in to what their conversation might have been.

**Samuel:** Let's find a good place to settle down for our prayer meeting. Friends, we are far enough away from our books by now!

**Byram:** (pointing to the west) But I don't much like the look of those dark clouds over there, Samuel. Don't you think we better go back to Williams College?

**Francis:** It sure is hot. Living in these mountains it's easy to believe what my natural philosophy professor said: human beings suffer more from heat when it's humid than when it's dry. I wonder what it's like in the deserts of the Far West.

**James (startled, shrinking back):** Whoa, did you see that bolt of lightning? That was pretty close! And pretty loud!

**Harvey:** What do you think of this storm, friends? Do you actually think that God is trying to prevent our little meeting? Or do you think we're doing the Lord's work?

**Byram:** If it hadn't been so terribly hot this afternoon, more of our colleagues would've joined us for this expedition, don't you think, Samuel? Then you would have been more convinced of our merit, Harvey!

**Samuel:** Oh yes, I suppose we would have been more than a dozen on a fair day. There's been quite an increase in the number of us who have gotten religion here. They tell me that six years ago, there were only two Christians in the whole of this college! Now we are in good company!

**Francis:** I'm glad to be here with you fellows, to strengthen my own faith, and I say we get on with our prayer meeting right now!

**James:** But what about the storm? (Cringing from another crash) Is it safe?

**Harvey:** Oh I'm sure we'll be fine, perhaps just a bit wet. Here comes the rain! Let's gather in the leeward side of this haystack where the cows have carved us out a little cave and here we can talk.

(All five run over to the haystack and sit down)

**Byram:** So tell us, Samuel, how is it you come to be so committed to your faith? You are always the one who inspires the rest of us.

**Samuel:** I guess you know that my father is the minister down in Torrington, Connecticut. I grew up with it all around me. But I'm really convinced that it was my mother's prayers that did it. I despaired of seeing God's purpose for me, but my mother prayed and prayed, and said: "I have consecrated this child to be a missionary."

**Francis:** And you will be a missionary one day, Samuel, don't doubt it! She knew what she was talking about, I bet!

**James:** Maybe that is God's voice speaking to us in the thunder, because I am having the same warmed heart, the same conviction. I can't imagine anything more wonderful than travel to a far distant land to bring the good news to those who are so much in need of good news.

**Harvey:** But it's so dangerous! Just like it's dangerous to be out here in this storm, you foolish fellows. We can't go just walking into some country that is full of hostile people without first dispatching soldiers to subdue them!

**Samuel:** We can do it if we will, boys, God will give us the strength. God has made martyrs for thousands of years.

**Byram:** I am with you, Mills!

**James:** And so am I!

**Francis:** Then let us join our hearts in silent prayer, and ask God to bless us and to give us the courage and the vision to go out into all the world to serve as Jesus did.

*(The Haystack Skit continued)*

(All bow their hearts, fold their hands in intense prayer.)

**Narrator (speaks over this scene):** If this one scene under the Haystack had been the only effort these young men put forth toward their ideal, certainly it would've died then and there. But in fact they were persistent and committed. They continued to meet together in prayer each week, with more and more added to their number each time. As some of them transferred into other schools, they brought this secret society dubbed "The Brethren" with them, along with the custom of prayer and the conviction of going out into the world to serve. In 1810 James Richards and Samuel Mills entered the newly-opened Andover Theological Seminary, where the coded minutes of their secret organization are still kept. Adding to their number Adoniram Judson and Samuel Newell, later that year the four went to the annual meeting of the Massachusetts General Association (the predecessor of our Conference) and asked for help in sending forth missionaries. In the following days the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions was formed. It sent out its first ship to Asia less than two years later.

<http://www.tinyurl.com/2vg7b54>

## The Haystack Song

In Honor of the 200th Anniversary of the Haystack Prayer Meeting

Tune: This Little Light of Mine

Words: Rev. Dr. Rick Russell

200 years ago,  
On a Williams College farm,  
Five students met to pray,  
And then the rains came down,  
They hurried to a haystack's cover,  
And God's Spirit gathered round.

Let it shine, Let it shine, Let it shine

We celebrate the Haystack Meeting

So many years ago,  
Called to wider mission,  
We answer, "Let us go!"  
Sent to live the Good News,  
More light for all to know

Let it shine, Let it shine, Let it shine

<http://www.tinyurl.com/3a65pqy>

# Giving and Receiving Hospitality



## Exploration: Future and Vision

### About this Setting

“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.” In this statement of hospitality offered by the United Church of Christ, diversity is not only welcomed, it is affirmed. As we look to the future, how can we continue to welcome and affirm persons whose appearance, abilities, talents, experiences, and preferences may be different from our own? Who is missing from our congregations and how will we help them to feel at home when they come through our doors? How will we recognize God in our midst as we push aside our fears about differences and change?

### About this Exploration

Pursuing hospitality invites self-examination and even criticism. Where are we as individuals and where is the community in the complexity of protecting, tending and making space for self, God, others and all creation? Where are the points of giving and receiving hospitality? How do we discover the courage to reach beyond the familiar? What growth is required as individuals and as a community? What practices, events and experiences are worthy of celebration? What sustains a continuing journey? Living into God’s future calls forth a dance of individual and communal points of view, commitments, passions and understandings. God welcomes all into this future.

**BIBLE FOCUS PASSAGES:**

**Luke 14:15–24**  
**Mark 10:13–16**

**Leader Preparation**

The activities offered here are intended to expose the participants to three of the emphases of the United Church of Christ: multiracial/multicultural, open and affirming of gender diversity, and accessible to all abilities. You may choose activities to focus on just one of these areas, or you may choose one activity from each area. There are at least two activities from each area although they are not grouped by category. For further information about being a multiracial/multicultural, open and affirming church that is accessible to all see Attachment: “Additional Resources for Diversity.”

With which of these areas are you least familiar? Which area should your congregation have more exposure to?

*I'm dreaming of a world  
where the color of one's skin will mean  
less than what is in the person's heart.  
A world where water's clean and where  
air is safe to breathe.  
And every child born has enough to eat.  
Dream God's dream!  
Holy Spirit help us dream of a world  
where there is justice  
and where everyone is free to build and  
grow and love,  
and to simply have enough.  
The world will change, when we dream  
God's dream.*

—by Bryan Sirchio,  
from *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

**Exploring & Engaging Activities**



**1 Let the Little Children Come (Easy Preparation)**

Leader Preparation: Read and reflect on Mark 10:13–16. Obtain the poster “The Public Fountain.” Place a sheet of newsprint over the poster and cut a rectangle out of the newsprint that allows only the boy in the photograph to be shown (hiding the water and the fountain). Hang it over the poster with poster putty.

**Supplies:**

- Bibles
- poster: <http://www.tinyurl.com/UCCResources>, “The Public Fountain” by Manuel Alvarez Bravo
- prepared newsprint “frame”
- poster putty

Ask for a volunteer to read Mark 10:13–16 to the group. Ask: Which childhood characteristics do you think Jesus was referring to when he talked about how we may enter the realm of God? Now invite them to look at the poster and share what they observe about the child. What would Jesus see in this child? Now move the “frame” to show the child drinking the water. Ask: What do you know about this child now? Finally, take off the “frame” and encourage discussion about hospitality as accessibility. How accessible is the realm of God?

**2 Movie Night**

Leader preparation: Choose a movie from the list found on page 23 at <http://www.tinyurl.com/32eoxr6>,

preview it, and make arrangements to show it to an age-appropriate group in your congregation. Print out the discussion questions on page 24. Arrange to have a person with a disability come to speak about living with disabilities.

**Supplies:**

- DVD and DVD player
- screen
- popcorn (optional)

Host a Movie Night to show a film that stimulates thinking about disabilities. Engage the group in a discussion after the movie. If possible, invite someone with the disability featured in the movie to speak about living with disabilities before the movie is shown.

**3 LGBT Terms**

Leader preparation: Make copies of the handout and read the background information about being Open and Affirming found at <http://www.tinyurl.com/379wzpe>.

**Supplies:**

- copies of the handout: LGBT Terms, Attachment: Activity 3
- “An Ally’s Story” found at <http://www.tinyurl.com/3ymf5hd>

### Session Development

For each session leaders may choose from 9 activities that help learners engage the practice of faith. It is best to select at least one activity from Exploring and Engaging, at least one from Discerning and Deciding, and at least one from Sending and Serving. The first activity in each category is designed for “easy preparation” (able to be done with minimal preparation using supplies normally found at the church). Using all 9 activities could take 90–120 minutes.

\* To plan a session of 30–45 minutes, choose 3 activities using one activity from each category.

\* To plan a session of 45–60 minutes, choose 4 or 5 using at least one activity from each category.

Read to the group “An Ally’s Story.” Then give each participant a copy of the handout, LGBT Terms. After everyone has had an opportunity to read through the Terms, ask for volunteers to share any new insights. Ask: How might this information help us to be a more welcoming congregation?

#### ④ I Cannot Come To the Banquet (Easy Preparation)

Leader preparation: Read and reflect on Luke 14:15–24.

##### Supplies:

- Bibles

Ask for a volunteer to read aloud Luke 14:15–24. As a group, re-tell this scripture as if your pastor were the dinner host and your congregation were the first group of invited guests. Who and where are the “poor, crippled, blind, and lame” in your community? What kinds of people in your community would be the third group to be invited? Can you put names to some of those faces? In what ways can you invite and help them to feel welcome in your church?

#### ⑤ Make Diverse Clothespin Dolls

Leader preparation: Gather a wide variety of fabric scraps. Learn the song “Come All You People” <http://www.tinyurl.com/FPSong1>, or invite a musician from your congregation to teach it to the group.

##### Supplies:

- wooden clothespins (with the round “heads”)
- white glue or a glue gun
- markers
- fabric scraps
- scissors
- copies of *Sing! Prayer and Praise*, <http://www.tinyurl.com/329vo9u>

Make clothespin dolls representing as many diverse people as possible. Incorporate culture, race, abilities, gender, age, and any other characteristics that you can think of. Learn and sing “Come All You People” (*Sing! Prayer and Praise*, No. 22) <http://www.tinyurl.com/3yauvxy> as you work. Mount these dolls on a banner or display them in some other creative form in your church.

#### ⑥ What If...?

Leader preparation: Make copies of “Transgender: A Parent’s Perspective” found at <http://www.tinyurl.com/327j3y9>.

##### Supplies:

- paper
- pens or pencils
- copies of “Transgender: A Parent’s Perspective”  
<http://www.tinyurl.com/327j3y9>

Invite the participants to sit back and close their eyes (if they wish) and imagine what it would be like if they each woke up tomorrow in the body of the opposite gender. Allow those who would prefer to journal their responses to the questions that follow to do so. In what ways would your day be different? In what ways would it be the same? What are the cultural expectations you might bump up against? What kind of gender behaviors are insisted on by our culture (like who

should wear makeup and who should wear a tux, for example)? In what ways are these cultural “rules” critical to our existence or not? Then share the copies of “Transgender: A Parent’s Perspective” with the group. Lead a discussion around the participants’ reactions.

### 7 Multicultural Hymns and Songs (Easy Preparation)

Leader preparation: Spend time with your church musician, if necessary, to help you locate multicultural hymns in your hymnal. Recruit a keyboardist or guitarist to accompany this session.

#### Supplies:

- hymnals/songbooks
- paper
- pens or pencils

As a group, choose at least three hymns or songs from another culture to recommend to your pastor and church musician to be used in upcoming services of worship and intergenerational activities. Enjoy singing these songs together as you make your selections.

### 8 Being Multicultural

Leader preparation: Allow time to purchase a variety of breads at a grocery store.

#### Supplies:

- newsprint or whiteboard and markers
- copies of the handout, The Prayer of Jesus, Attachment: Activity 8
- a variety of breads from different cultures such as tortillas, bagels, corn bread, rice cakes, etc.

Serve the varieties of breads from different cultures as you invite the participants to brainstorm ways to make your congregation’s worship and intergenerational life more multicultural, even if your congregation is rather “mono-cultural.” Use categories such as food, prayers (languages), songs, dance, and art/visuals. Close this session by praying the Prayer of Jesus together in as many languages simultaneously as the group is able. Use the handout “The Prayer of Jesus,” if helpful.

### 9 A Church Walk-Through

Leader preparation: Plan a route ahead of time for walking the group through your church facility. Make copies of “Disability Etiquette Tips” for each participant from <http://www.tinyurl.com/327j3y9>.

#### Supplies:

- newsprint, or whiteboard and markers
- small notepad for each participant
- pencils or pens
- copies of “Disability Etiquette Tips”
- toilet paper tubes
- markers
- masking tape

Help the group to brainstorm every possible disability that comes to mind and list them on newsprint. Put an asterisk next to each disability listed for which you are making at least one accommodation in your church. Invite each person to choose

a disability from the remaining list (or from the entire list if your congregation is already accommodating disabilities well) and invite them to “wear the glasses of that disability” as you walk together through your church’s facility, imagining what it is like to have that disability. If your group consists of younger youth or children, have them make special “binoculars” to use during the walk-through by taping together two toilet paper tubes and decorating them with markers. Encourage them to take notes and share them after the walk-through. What one or two accommodations or considerations do you feel would be the most critical to put into place right away? Use the copies of “Disability Etiquette Tips” as appropriate during this session or encourage the participants to read it at home.

### Reflect

Which area or areas of diversity were more difficult for your group to address? Does this give you any direction for a future area of focus for your congregation? Who do you need to include in your prayers?

**Attachment: Additional Resources for Diversity**

**MultiRacial/MultiCultural, Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, Transgender, Disabilities**

What Matters: We Are People of Extravagant Welcome <http://www.tinyurl.com/37nzvh9>

**MultiRacial/MultiCultural**

Monk, Isabell, *Hope*, Fifth Avenue Editions, 2004; ages 5-8, <http://www.tinyurl.com/353zfck>

A biracial girl is taught that her family is generations of faith mixed with lots of love.

Sasso, Sandy Eisenberg, *God's Paintbrush*, Jewish Lights Publishing, 2004; ages 4-9

<http://www.tinyurl.com/36z7bkb>

*Shine God's People of All Races, Cultures, and Nations: We are a multiracial and multicultural church:*

<http://www.tinyurl.com/2wpurl3>

**MultiRacial-MultiCultural Church Resources**

<http://www.tinyurl.com/39kkcjp>

<http://www.tinyurl.com/33oybt5>

A Church for All People Bible Study

<http://www.tinyurl.com/39jf2ry>

Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries (COREM)

<http://www.tinyurl.com/34oa67m>

Pacific Islander Asian American Ministries (PAAM)

<http://www.paamonline.org>

Council for Hispanic Ministries (CHM)

<http://www.tinyurl.com/39m28am>

United Black Christians (UBC)

<http://www.tinyurl.com/2u9c37d>

Ministers for Social, Racial and Economic Justice (MRSEJ)

<http://www.tinyurl.com/35ays9k>

Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM)

<http://www.caimucc.org>

**Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, Transgender**

Newman, Leslea, *Heather Has Two Mommies*, Alyson Books, 2009; ages 4-8, <http://www.tinyurl.com/2va6kda>

Tigert, Leanne and Maren Tirabassi, *Transgendering Faith: Identity, Sexuality, and Spirituality*,

The Pilgrim Press, 2004, <http://www.tinyurl.com/33n8u63>

Vigna, Judith, *My Two Uncles*, Albert Whitman & Company, 1995; ages 4-8, <http://www.tinyurl.com/35eksx6>

*Shine, God's People, Whole and Holy, Loving Faithfully: We are an open and affirming church:*

<http://www.tinyurl.com/2wpurl3>

(Additional Resources continued)

UCC LGBT Ministries (resources): <http://www.ucc.org/lgbt>

The UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns, resources: <http://www.uccc coalition.org>

Open and Affirming in the UCC: <http://www.ucc.org/lgbt/ona.html>

### Disabilities

Bolduc, Kathleen Deyer, *A Place Called Acceptance: Ministry with Families of Children with Disabilities*, Bridge Resources, 2001. <http://www.tinyurl.com/28ntnsr>

Bouwkamp, Julie A., *Hi, I'm Ben ... And I've Got A Secret!*, Band of Angels, 2006. Ben shares his likes and dislikes that are common to many children and then tells his secret: he has Down Syndrome. <http://www.tinyurl.com/33g68kk>

Davis, Patricia A., *Brian's Bird*, Shen's Books, 2000; ages 4-8. This story shows how a visually impaired African-American boy can live a typical life. <http://www.tinyurl.com/3ag7t47>

DeClements, Barthe, *Sixth Grade Can Really Kill You*, Puffin, 2008; ages 9-12. A reading disability is managed by a sympathetic teacher. <http://www.tinyurl.com/22sujcf>

Heelan, Jamee Riggio, OTR/L, *Can You Hear A Rainbow? The Story of a Deaf Boy Named Chris*, Peachtree Publishers, 2002; ages 4-8, <http://www.tinyurl.com/3aqjspd>

Newman, Barbara J., *Autism and Your Church: Nurturing the Spiritual Growth of People with Autism Spectrum Disorders*, Faith Alive Christian Resources & Friendship Ministries, 2006. <http://www.tinyurl.com/27xn2rf>

Newman, Barbara J., *Helping Kids Include Kids with Disabilities*, CRC Publishers, 2001. <http://www.tinyurl.com/2ft8dlk>

Welton, Jude, *Can I Tell You About Asperger Syndrome? A Guide for Friends and Family*, Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2003; ages 7-15. <http://www.tinyurl.com/26exspy>

*Shine, God's People Differently Gifted in Mind and Body: We are a church accessible to all:* <http://www.tinyurl.com/2wpurl3>

UCC Disabilities Ministries (offers the Accessible To All Study Guide): <http://www.uccdm.org>

Friendship Ministries (resources for sharing God's love with people who have cognitive impairments): <http://www.friendship.org>

National Organization on Disability: <http://www.nod.org>

Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder: <http://www.chadd.org>

**Attachment: Activity 3**

# LGBT Terms

**sexual orientation**

*The attraction one feels towards members of the same, the other, or both genders.*

**affectional orientation**

*A more encompassing term sometimes used in place of sexual orientation because it recognizes that attractions are not just sexual, but also based on personality, intelligence, sense of humor, etc.*

**sexual preference**

*Often confused with sexual orientation, sexual preference is what individuals like to do sexually.*

**Kinsey report**

*A 1948 report by Alfred Kinsey on Sexual Behavior in the Human Male, followed by Sexual Behavior in the Human Female a few years later. Kinsey placed sexual orientation on a continuum.*

**continuum 0-6**

*Kinsey classified sexual orientation in 7 categories based on the thoughts, feelings, and behaviors of individuals. "0" is 100% heterosexual, with no thoughts, experiences, or feelings towards members of the same gender, while "6" has had no thoughts, experiences, or feelings with the other gender. Categories 1-5 have some degree of thoughts, experiences, and/or feelings towards members of both genders.*

**homosexual**

*An individual whose affectional orientation is toward members of the other gender.*

**heterosexual**

*An individual whose affectional orientation is toward members of the other gender.*

**bisexual**

*An individual whose affectional orientation is toward members of either gender.*

**gay**

1. a homosexual male
2. a term sometimes used to include all whose affectional orientation is not heterosexual.

**lesbian**

*A homosexual female.*

**queer**

*A term sometimes used, particularly by younger people, as an all-inclusive term encompassing the range of "gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, etc."*

**asexual**

*Without sexual desires. A person who does not experience sexual attraction.*

**monogamy**

*Committing to be sexual exclusively with one partner.*

**polyamorousness**

*Being sexual with more than one partner—i.e., not exclusive.*

**pedophile**

*An individual who, regardless of his/her affectional orientation, is sexual with children, regardless of their gender. (This is an issue of power, not of orientation.) Sometimes called child molesters. (Most pedophiles are upper-middle class, straight white men.)*

**ephebophile**

*A sub-category of pedophile whose focus is on teenagers. (Most of the priests in the recent clergy-child abuse cases are ephebophiles.)*

**transvestite**

*An individual who dresses in clothing of the other gender.*

**transgender**

*(not transgendered)*

*An individual whose biological gender does not correspond to their gender identity, i.e. a woman in a man's body, or a man in a woman's body. (Gender identity is not to be confused with affectional/sexual orientation.)*

**bigender**

*An individual whose gender identity is both male and female.*

**transsexual**

*An individual who wishes to have their biological identity corrected to match their gender identity. Pre-operative. (Not all transgender people fall into this category.)*

**transexual**

*An individual who has undergone a series of gender reassignment surgeries.*

**intersexual**

*An individual with physical anatomy of both genders (i.e. the person is born with both boy parts and girl parts).*

**hermaphrodite**

*The scientific term for "intersexual" which is most correctly applied to species of animals. Not considered kind to use to refer to humans.*

**homophobia**

*The irrational fear of homosexual people.*

**transphobia**

*The irrational fear of transgender people.*

## Giving and Receiving Hospitality

*(LGBT Terms continued)*

### **heterosexism**

*Individual, group, or institutional norms and behaviors that result from the assumption that all people are heterosexual.*

### **heterocentrism**

*A belief or argument that male-female sexuality is the only natural or moral mode of sexual behavior, and the effects of that cultural ideology.*

### **internalized homophobia**

*Hatred of oneself due to homosexual orientation.*

### **internalized transphobia**

*Hatred of oneself due to gender identity.*

### **in the closet**

*The state of not having disclosed one's affectional orientation or gender identity.*

### **coming out**

*The act of disclosing one's affectional orientation or gender identity.*

### **heterosexual ally**

*A heterosexual individual who is supportive of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people.*

### **oppression**

*The act of subjugating by cruelty. Suppression of the natural self-expression and emotion of others.*

### **repression**

*A state of forcible subjugation. Sometimes inflicted on oneself.*

### **prejudice**

*"Pre-judging." A judgment or opinion formed before the facts are known. Often founded on suspicion, intolerance, irrational hatred.*

### **sexual prejudice**

*All negative attitudes passed on sexual/affectional orientation, whether the target is homosexual, bisexual, or heterosexual.*

### **social power**

*The means of obtaining security or advantage, exercised in a variety of forms: coercive, economic, ideological. May be used for good or ill.*

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**Attachment: Activity 8**

# The Prayer of Jesus

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**Spanish**

*Padre nuestro que estás en los cielos  
Santificado sea tu Nombre  
Venga tu reino  
Hágase tu voluntad  
En la tierra como en el cielo  
Danos hoy el pan de este día  
y perdona nuestras deudas  
como nosotros perdonamos nuestros deudores  
y no nos dejes caer en al tentación  
sino que líbranos del malo.  
Amen/Así sea*

**Japanese**

*Ten ni mashimasu warera no chichi  
yo.Negawaku wa mina wo agamesase tamae.  
Mikuni wo kitarase tamae.Mikokoro no ten ni  
narugotoku,Chini mo nasase tamae.Warera  
no nichiyō no kate wo kyōmo atae tamae.  
Warera ni tsumi wo okasumono wo warera ga  
yurusugotoku,Warera no tsumi womo yurushi  
tamae.Warera wo kokoromi ni awasezu,Akuyori  
sukuidashi tamae.but deliver us from the evil  
one.Kuni to chikara to sakae towa kagirinaku  
nanjinomono nareba nari.Amen.*

**German**

*Vater Unser im Himmel,Geheiligt werde  
Dein Name,Dein Reich komme.Dein Wille  
geschehe,Wie im Himmel, so auf Erden.  
Unser tägliches Brot gib uns heute,Und vergib  
uns unsere Schuld,Wie auch wir vergeben  
unseren Schuldigern.Und führe uns nicht in  
Versuchung,Sondern erlöse uns von dem Bösen.  
Denn Dein ist das Reich und die Kraftund die  
Herrlichkeit, in Ewigkeit. Amen.*

**English**

*Our Father, who art in heaven  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our debts  
As we forgive our debtors,  
And lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
And the glory forever.  
Amen.*

**French**

*Notre Père, qui es aux cieux,que ton nom soit  
sanctifié,que ton règne vienne,que ta volonté  
soit faite sur la terre comme au ciel.  
Donne-nous aujourd’hui notre pain de ce jour.  
Pardonne-nous nos offensescomme nous  
pardonnons aussi à ceux qui nous ont offensés.*

*Et ne nous soumetts pas à la tentation,mais  
délivre-nous du mal,  
car c’est à toi qu’appartiennent le règne,la  
puissance et la gloire, aux siècles des siècles.  
Amen.*